Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 H-02 /058 R

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O R 251812Z JUL 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAREUR
CINCUSAFE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 175899

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MARR, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: NEWS RELEASE ON WIESBADEN-KAISERSLAUTERN EXCHANGE

REF: USCINCEUR MSG 160944Z JULY 75 (C - NOTAL)

1. ON OR ABOUT 1 AUGUST 1975, AIR FORCE AND ARMY FORCES WILL BEGIN PRELIMINARY MOVES TO FACILITATE THE STATIONING OF AN ARMY BRIGADE IN WIESBADEN IN CY-1976. REQUEST YOU NOTIFY ALL OF THE ABOVE INFO ADDRESSEES AS SOON AS YOU HAVE NOTIFIED APPROPRIATE GERMAN AUTHORITIES. NEWS CONFIDENTIAL

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RELEASE WILL BE A COMBINED SIMULTANEOUS USAREUR/USAFE RELEASE IN EUROPE ON 29 JULY.

2. QTE: HEIDELBERG-US ARMY, EUROPE (USAREUR) AND US AIR

FORCES, EUROPE (USAFE) PLAN TO EXCHANGE SOME FACILITIES IN GERMANY DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS WHICH WILL INCREASE THE NUMBER OF US ARMY UNITS STATIONED IN THE WIESBADEN AREA AND THE NUMBER OF US AIR FORCE UNITS STATIONED IN THE KAISERS-LAUTERN AREA. THIS EXCHANGE, WHICH HAS BEEN FULLY DISCUSSED WITH THE FRG AUTHORITIES, IS NECESSITATED BY THE INCREASE IN US COMBAT FORCES IN THE FRG ASSIGNED TO NATO DEFENSE. THE INCREASE IN US COMBAT FORCES DOES NOT INVOLVE AN INCREASE IN THE OVERALL FORCE LEVELS IN GERMANY, BUT

DOES REFLECT THE INCREASE IN THE COMBAT-TO-SUPPORT TROOP RATIO REQUIRED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC LAW 93-365. USAFE WILL SHIFT MANY OF ITS UNITS CURRENTLY IN WIESBADEN TO THE KAISERSLAUTERN-RAMSTEIN-SEMBACH AREA, WHILE USAREUR WILL MOVE A BRIGADE TO THE WIESBADEN AIR FORCE BASE. THE 3800-MAN BRIGADE WILL START TO MOVE TO THE WIESBADEN AIR BASE EARLY IN 1976. RECOGNIZING THE POPULARITY OF WIESBADEN AS A TOURIST CENTER, CAPITAL CITY AND POPULAR EUROPEAN SPA, THERE ARE NO PLANS TO STATION ANY ARMY UNITS WITHIN THE CITY ITSELF. THE ARMY WILL SHIFT 2700 OF ITS TROOPS FROM THE KAISERSLAUTERN AREA WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR TO VARIOUS OTHER LOCATIONS IN GERMANY, MAKING ROOM FOR AN EQUAL NUMBER OF AIR FORCE TROOPS TO MOVE TO KAISERSLAUTERN FROM WIESBADEN. AN ADDITIONAL 1100 PERSONNEL IN EACH OF THE TWO SERVICES WILL RELOCATE BY THE END OF JUNE 1978. WHEN THESE MOVES ARE COMPLETED APPROXIMATELY 1000 USAFE PERSONNEL WILL REMAIN IN THE WIESBADEN AREA. REVERSING THE CURRENT ROLES, A SENIOR USAFE COMMANDER WILL BECOME THE PRINCIPAL US FORCES REPRESENTATIVE IN THE KAISERSLAUTERN AREA WHILE USAREUR WILL APPOINT THE MILITARY COMMUNITY COMMANDER IN THE WIESBADEN AREA. THE PLANNED EXCHANGE OF FACILITIES BETWEEN ELEMENTS OF THE US FORCES IS DESIGNED TO STREAM-LINE ARMY AND AIR FORCE SUPPORT AND COMBAT OPERATIONS. MOST OF THE CIVILIAN WORKERS INVOLVED WILL BE RETAINED, AND THE SERVICE ASSUMING PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES IN CONFIDENTIAL

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EACH AREA, EITHER THE ARMY OR THE AIR FORCE, WILL EMPLOY AS MANY OF THE PERSONNEL OF THE OTHER SERVICE AS POSSIBLE. UNQTE.

3. PARA 2 IS DOWNGRADED TO UNCLASSIFIED UPON NEWS RELEASE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PRESS RELEASES, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, MILITARY BASES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 25 JUL 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE175899

Document Number: 1975STATE175899 Document Source: ADS Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: OSD/ISA:COL. FREIMARK:MEM

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: 11652 GDS Errors: n/a Film Number: D750257-0666 From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507106/baaaaqgq.tel Line Count: 105 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM

Office: ORIGIN EUR

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: greeneet

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags Review Date: 04 JUN 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by greeneet>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE Subject: n/a

TAGS: MARR, GE, US, NATO To: BONN INFO NATO

USCINCEUR CINCUSAREUR CINCUSAFE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released	US Department of	State EO Systematic	Review 06 JUL 2006